

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional or continuation applications directed to the canceled subject matter.

Please add new claims 12-22.

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12. (New) A portable high efficiency electrostatic sampling device comprising:

- (a) at least one discharge electrode,
- (b) a high voltage power supply operatively connected to said at least one electrode,
- (c) a power source operatively connected to said high voltage power supply and at least one discharge electrode, wherein said high voltage power supply effects ionization from said at least one electrode;

wherein said device generates a sufficient electrostatic charge to capture viable organisms on a grounded, conductive material.

13. (New) The device of claim 12 further comprising a voltage regulator operatively connected to said power source and said high voltage power supply.

14. (New) The device of claim 12 further comprising a first sealed compartment creating a water-tight enclosure of electronic parts.

15. (New) The device of claim 14 further comprising a second sealed compartment creating a water-tight enclosure of said power

source.

16. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein said power source is selected from the group consisting of at least one battery, an AC powered adaptor with a DC output, and combinations thereof.

17. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein said grounded, conductive material is a media suitable to culture microorganisms.

18. (New) The device of claim 12 wherein said grounded, conductive material is selected from the group consisting of water, cell culture media, microbiological media, metal material, and conductive carbon.

19. (New) A method for collecting airborne particulates comprising:

(a) placing a portable high efficiency electrostatic sampling device of claim 12 in a vicinity to be sampled,

(b) applying a high negative voltage to at least one discharge electrode to create a strong electrostatic field close to a grounded, conductive material, and

(c) collecting particulates in or on said grounded, conductive material

wherein said electrostatic field generates a sufficient

electrostatic charge to capture viable organisms on a grounded, conductive plate.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said particulates are microorganisms.

21. (New) A method for collecting airborne particulates comprising:

(a) placing a portable, high efficiency electrostatic sampling device of claim 13 in a vicinity to be sampled,

(b) applying a high negative voltage to at least one discharge electrode to create a strong electrostatic field to airborne particulates, and

(c) collecting particulates in or on a grounded, conductive material

wherein said electrostatic field generates a sufficient electrostatic charge to capture viable organisms on a grounded, conductive plate.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said particulates are microorganisms.